

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
 - receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,
wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link,
the first network device and the second network device each having a
version of a routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network
device's routing protocol version;
 - determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the
same as the second network device's routing protocol version;
 - verifying the first network device's routing protocol version as being the same as
the second network device's routing protocol version;
 - choosing the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second
network devices; and
 - configuring the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first
and second network devices.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the version of the routing protocol of
each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the method
further comprises detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and
determining whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same
as the second network device's routing protocol type.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising configuring the
link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices
comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol
version.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
determining whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same as a second network device's routing protocol version;
verifying the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and
configuring a link including the first network device and the second network device, each network device including the same routing protocol version.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the version of the RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

receive a packet from a first network device to a second network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;

determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version;

verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version;

choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices; and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices.
16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the set of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.
17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first

- and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
 19. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
 20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.
 21. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
determine whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same as a second network device's routing protocol version;
verify the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and
configure a link including the first network device and the second network device,
each network device including a routing protocol version.
 22. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the routing protocol comprises Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
 23. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the version of the RIP is one of Version 1 or Version 2.
 24. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the version of the RIP of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
- a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version; and
- a processor coupled with the first and second network devices, the processor to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices, and
- configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices.
28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the processor is further to detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.
29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processor is further to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second

- network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
 31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
 32. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:
 - a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;
 - a processor coupled with the storage medium and the first and second network devices, the processor to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices, and configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices; and

a storage medium coupled with the processor, the storage medium to store instructions to facilitate the processor to determine, verify, choose, and configure.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the processor is further to detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.
34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the processor is further to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.